8/21/71

Dear Lita,

I've too much I have to get done by Monday and can't to make full response to your note of the 17th. What you say is mature and correct.

Russ came here yesterday evening, left this morning, and we had a long talk last night. On every point except one, an important one, what he said is reasonable. I neither pressed nor chided him on that point. It had to do with his telling anyone about a leak of any kind in Maryland. On that he gave no real explanation, and he had to have known it could have jeopardized me and my source.

He says he never had any direct contact with Mrs. deP, that he was in touch with Riley at the gunshop only. In short, his only Minuteman contact of any kind, as he explained it, was through this one man. In part, if this is true (is it?), that was at my behest after he told me of the contact.

He is changing, as is natural and right, from the reflection of himself in his martyr note to me, and I think trying to find and reorient himself in a not-irresponsible way. I hope so, anyway.

And as I think he has come to understand the mistakes he made and why they were mistakes, I also think - and do hope - it is less likely he will repeat them.

We did not have much political talk, except of the Minut men, where we did he had oversimplified and immediately understood his error in reasoning and that he was comparing things that could not be compared, etc.

Anyway, thanks for your concern for both of us. There was no unpleasantness of any kind.

Best,

Dear Harold,

Please don't forget that things I've told you can be taken for revenge or bitterness. Remember the things Carole has done and said, and R's reactions to them. Please keep in mind that he may believe I've done the same, even though he and I have long disagreed on the activities I've mentioned.

I don't feel I'm being disloyal to him as much as being loyal to you.

I plead with you not to discredit him until he has thoroughly explained

himself as I now know he may be able to. He's always known more about what he's doing than I have.

Please believe I have no desire to hurt anyone.

Sincerely,
Lita